

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-14

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 075810

EXDIS TODEP 136

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM BEIRUT APR 20

QUOTE

S E C R E T BEIRUT 4659

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, LE

SUBJECT: FRANGIE ON FEDAYEEN

1. DURING DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT FRANGIE APRIL 20, I ASKED FOR HIS APPRAISAL SITUATION RE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LEBANESE GOVERNMENT AND FEDAYEEN IN AFTERMATH ISRAELI RAID ON BEIRUT.

2. FRANGIE SAID HE HAD LONG MEETING WITH ' ARAFAT WHO WAS OBVIOUSLY DEPRESSED AND WHOSE TOCK, FRANGIE CONSIDERS, HAS SUFFERED SHARP DROP. FRANGIE ANTICIPATES FURTHER JOCKEYING FOR LEADERSHIP POSITION AMONG FEDAYEEN AND WAS UNCERTAIN HOW THIS WOULD COME OUT.

3. IF ' ARAFATIRETAINU COPTROL, FRANGIE DOES NOT
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EXPECT MAJOR CONFRONTATION BETWEEN GOL AND FEDAYEEN.
SHOULD HE LOSE OUT, THIS BECOMES MORE PROBLEMATICAL.

4. IN ANY EVENT, FRANGIE ANTICIPATES INDIVIDUAL " ACTS
OF FOLLY" AGAINST US INTERESTS.

5. PRESIDENT REASSURED ME GOL WILL DO EVERYTHING IT
CAN TO PROTECT US AGAINST FEDAYEEN ATTACK. HE
VOLUNTEERED THAT, IN VIEW INTELLIGENCE REPORTS FEDAYEEN
PLAN TO ROCKET EMBASSY AND ARE SEEKING APARTMENTS IN
CHANCERY AREA, HE GAVE INSTRUCTIONS NO APARTMENTS TO
BE RENTED TO NEW TENANTS WHICH OVERLOOK EMBASSY WITHOUT
PRIOR SCREENING OF TENANT BY ARMY INTELLIGENCE.

6. I RETURNED TO THE CHARGE IN URGING GOL AT MINIMUM
EXPUL ALL TERRORIST PEADERS, PARTICULARLY THOSE SUCH
AS SALAH KHALAF. I RECALLED HAVING MADE SAME PROPOSAL
AND NOTED THEIR IMPLEMENTATION WOULD HAVE SPARED
LEBANON PAIN AND HUMILIATION OF ISRAELIS BEIRUT RAID.
HE ACKNOWLEDGED THIS AND SAID HE IS MAKING STRENUOUS
EFFORTS TO DO SO. HE CONFIDED THAT HE HAD ENROLLED
HELP OF TWO RECENT EGYPTIAN VISITORS, SADAT'S ADVISOR
EL KHOLI AND ARAB LEAGUE SEC GEN MAHMOUD RIAD. AT
HIS REQUEST THEY BOTH SPOKE TO FEDAYEEN LEADERSHIP
AND URGED THAT FOR THEIR OWN SAFETY THEY TRANSFER
THEIR OPERATIONS FROM BEIRUT TO CAIRO. HE CLAIMED
ALGERIANS ALSO " PROMISED" TO BE HELPFUL THIS REGARD
BUT WAS UNSURE WHAT THEY WOULD DO.

7. I ADVOCATED FURTHER STRENGTHENING OF LEBANESE
ARMY AND ASKED WHERE HE STOOD ON CONSCRIPTION. HE
REPLIED HE HAD BEEN THINKING ABOUT THIS SINCE OUR
LAST TALK AND IS COMING INCREASINGLY TO CONCLUSION
THIS WAS NOT THE BEST ROUTE FOR LEBANON, PRIMARILY
BECAUSE OF HIS CONCERN THAT INDISCRIMINATE CONSCRIP-
TION OF YOUNG PEOPLE WOULD INJECT RADICAL ELEMENT
(REFLECTED IN RECENT STUDENT OUTBURSTS) INTO WHAT WAS
OTHERWISE, FORTUNATELY, STILL A RELIABLE ARMY.
BUFFUM
UNQUOTE PORTER

SECRET

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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